



R0247

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance into the National Fire Academy's (NFA's) *Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents* (ALSRHMI) course. This fast-paced, highly technical program poses a serious challenge to the student. You are asked to arrive prepared to engage in the course with maximum commitment. There will be many opportunities to explore new relationships with chemistry and toxicology and how they relate to response to hazardous materials incidents.

This course represents a state-of-the-art approach to training, which utilizes computer-based reference materials, scenario-type exercises, and multiple opportunities for the student to apply the information. This type of approach to learning is performance based and designed to equip you with tools and experience to make "risk-based" decisions in your local setting.

Feel free to bring any written materials, i.e., procedures, protocols, to share with other students. We ask that these items be in an electronic format and in Microsoft Office format.

Prior to your arrival, you should complete the *Foundational Concepts of Chemistry* (Q0228) self-study course. This course is available through NFA Online at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov.

End-of-class graduation ceremonies are an important part of the course, and you are expected to attend. Please do not make any travel arrangements to leave campus until after you and your classmates graduate.

For your information, the NFA classroom environment is PC based. As increasing numbers of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers or other electronic devices to campus you alone are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The Academy cannot provide you with computer software, hardware, or technical support to include disks, printers, scanners, etc. Classrooms are outfitted with surge protectors at each table for your convenience. Thumb drives or external hard drives used to bring course materials to class cannot be connected to FEMA property without being scanned for viruses. Due to time limitations for scanning, these devices cannot be larger than 8 GB. Anything over this amount will not be scanned and cannot be used. A Student Computer Lab is located in Building D and is available for all students to use. It is open daily with technical support provided in the evenings. This lab uses Windows 7 and Office 2010 as the software standard.

Should you need additional information related to course content or requirements, please feel free to contact Mr. Wayne Yoder, Hazardous Materials Curriculum Training Specialist, at (301) 447-1090 or email at wayne.yoder@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent
National Fire Academy
U.S. Fire Administration